

Top golfers advance to Armed Forces Golf Championship

4B

Robins Airmen support special mission to save lives

5A

Paralegals help attorneys serve justice

11A

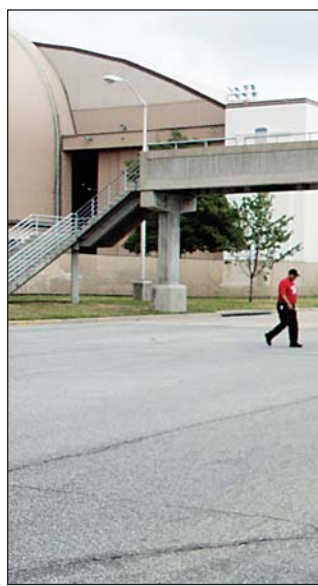
THE ROBINS REV-UP

September 23, 2005 Vol. 50 No. 38

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.



THE MACH READ



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Beginning Oct. 3, Robins employees will not be allowed to walk through the vehicle entrance and exit at Gate 31, but will be required to use the pedestrian overpass, pictured here.

New security and safety initiatives start Oct. 3

As part of Phase II of the installation's airfield security and safety enhancement plan, access to the flight line by privately owned vehicles (POV) is terminated effective Oct. 3.

However, POVs with proper vehicle passes to the industrial area will still be allowed, at this time.

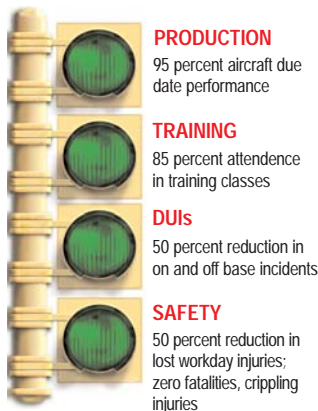
The other safety enhancement effective Oct. 3 is the mandatory use of the First Street overpass (crosswalk) at Gate 31. Employees will not be able to cross the road and enter or exit through the vehicle gate.

Those incentives may cause some initial discomfort, but employees are asked to cooperate in the spirit of putting worker safety first.

— From staff reports

ON TRACK

The designated goal day is Nov. 10. The measurement period began April 1 and ends Sept. 30.



WHAT IT MEANS
Green means goal is being met or exceeded.
Yellow means goal has not been met, but is still attainable.
Red means goal cannot be met.



Robins Airmen support special mission to save lives

Paralegals help attorneys serve justice

'YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN'



Robins remembers prisoners, missing

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Robins honored prisoners of war and those missing in action during a National POW/MIA recognition ceremony Sept. 16. Speakers at the POW/MIA retreat ceremony were Col. Theresa Carter, Sen. Saxby Chambliss, JoAnne Shirley, and Chief Master Sgt. Billy Doolittle.

Top: John R. Dominey, a World War II prisoner of war, salutes as the flag is retired at the POW/MIA ceremony Sept. 16.

Right: Tech Sgt. Dan Pacheco and Tech Sgt. Ramona Delamarter fold the flag at the ceremony.



Environmental cleanup ahead of schedule

By HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Robins is leading the way in environmental cleanup.

The Air Force has given its air logistics centers until 2014 to put systems in place to clean up sites contamination from past industrial operations – and Robins is ahead of schedule, with 13 systems now in place to clean up remaining sites. To date, more than half the total 79 environmental sites here have been cleaned up.

Charline Logue, an environmental scientist and project manager for the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Management Division's Restoration Cleanup Program, said Robins is taking a proactive approach to protecting



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Andy Long, operations technician, adjusts a pH analyzer.

the environment, by cleaning up environmental sites nine years ahead of Air Force goals.

"During the early years of air-

craft repair, disposal of chemicals caused contamination at sites at Robins," she said. "The

► see CLEANUP, 2A

A 'Spectacular' event

Hispanic Heritage Observance continues with cultural show

By LANORRIS ASKEW
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

If you missed Robins' kick off of its 30th annual Hispanic heritage celebration Sunday at Gator Park, have no fear, the Hispanic Heritage Committee has plenty left in store.

The cultural celebration continues with the Spectacular Hispanic Cultural Show at the Museum of Aviation's amphitheater Saturday.

Marylou Medina, a program support clerk with the

WHAT TO KNOW

Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 and offers a wide variety of cultural and educational activities that honor Hispanic Heritage. Robins' Hispanic Heritage Committee will hold a variety of events, including entertainment, seminars and a luncheon as part of the 30th annual celebration. All events are open to the public. For more information, visit www.robins.af.mil/heritage, or contact Armando Diaz, Hispanic Heritage Month Committee chairperson, at 926-1785. For more information on the Spectacular Hispanic Cultural Show contact Louie Barrientes at 222-1376.

► see SPECTACULAR, 2A

THINK SAFETY

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
To request a ride, call 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

SLOW DOWN ► 625 speeding tickets have been issued to date. Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 6 months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

WEATHER FORECAST

Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW

TODAY
9/26/7



SAURDAY
9/26/7



SUNDAY
9/26/7



Honorary Commanders



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Maj. General Mike Collings, Center commander, inducts Eddie Wiggins as an honorary commander. Community leaders were inducted as honorary commanders during a ceremony Tuesday at the Museum of Aviation. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center's Honorary Commanders Program was recently developed to promote an exchange of ideas, experiences, and friendships between key community leaders and Robins' military commanders. The program will offer Middle Georgia community members a chance to shadow wing and group commanders here.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Tyrone Daniel, lab technician, checks the trichloroethylene analyzer. Trichloroethylene is a chemical that is a common component of solvents and, here at Robins, a common contaminant in groundwater.

CLEANUP

Continued from 1A

focus of the cleanup division is to clean up environmental sites that were formerly used for landfills, fire protection training, and waste disposal in support of the base's mission."

Base environmental division employees and several area environmental consultants worked together to develop systems to address the efforts.

Each site was initially evaluated based on the type and amount of contamination to determine what systems would work best to clean up the affected areas.

The systems will continue to operate until all contamination affecting groundwater and soil is cleaned up. Robins began the investigative process of these sites in 1989. The first systems were put in place in 1995.

Fred Otto, environmental restoration cleanup program manager here, said the multi-million dollar program will free up natural resources for the base.

"This allows us to reuse the land for something else," he said. "A lot of these places are areas that have use restrictions. By cleaning it up, the land can be used for some other mission-related activity."

According to Mr. Otto, Robins has received high praise

for its cleanup efforts, with the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, calling Robins' cleanup program "one of the best in the Air Force."

Steve Coyle, 78th CEG's Environmental Management Division chief, echoed those remarks.

"I am extremely proud of our cleanup program and the success it has achieved," he said. "I am especially pleased to be reaching the last 'Remedy in Place' status at Robins, even though there are many years left of operation and maintenance associated with the selected remedy to achieve total clean up at all sites."

SPECTACULAR

Continued from 1A

Civilian Personnel Office, who serves as the chairperson for the outreach portion of the Hispanic Heritage Committee, said the gates will open at 6 p.m. and the event will begin at 7 p.m. It is expected to last until about 10 p.m.

Those who plan to attend are welcome to bring lawn chairs and snacks and beverages for the night of culture under the stars.

Ms. Medina said the National Hispanic Heritage observance began in the early 1980s and the main focus is to educate people and create awareness.

"That's exactly what we plan to do," she said. "Create awareness among our communities."

Ms. Medina said that with everything going on right now like the Hurricane Katrina disaster, this event is something extra special.

"This is somewhere that people can go and enjoy with their family," she said. "It's like a distraction, a way to get away from everything for a moment and relax, enjoy and learn a little bit more about the people we're living around because you don't really understand until you actually see it and live it."

The cultural event is being sponsored by the 402nd Maintenance Wing this year and boasts a wide array of live entertainment.

The alcohol free event will feature horse dancing, rope tricks and musical representations and dance from different Hispanic countries. During the event winners from a local



U.S. Air Force photo by EDWARD ASPERA JR.
The Robins community turned out for the Hispanic Food Tasting Saturday at Gator Park.

elementary school poster contest will also be announced. The students each created a poster with a Hispanic heritage theme. The winning poster will be used for next year's heritage observance advertising.

Ms. Medina, who was born in the United States to Mexican parents said even she hasn't been exposed to a lot of the different Hispanic cultures.

"Even though I've traveled a lot, I haven't sat down and had real conversations discussing the various cultures," she said. "I think the more we learn from each other's culture, the better we'll be able to understand each other and have a better work environment."

With the theme of "Developing Partnership with Our People and Our Community", the cultural exchange will continue through Oct. 15 with the culminating event being a banquet and Gala Night at the Enlisted Club.



U.S. Air Force file photo by EDWARD ASPERA JR.
Louie Barrientes & Regalo enter with the colors at a past Hispanic Heritage Show.

HISPANIC HERITAGE EVENTS

► Saturday -- Hispanic Spectacular Cultural Show, Museum of Aviation Amphitheatre, 7 p.m. Gates will open at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

► Oct. 3 -- Luncheon at the Enlisted Club, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and can be obtained at www.robins.af.mil/heritage. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Gabriel A. Rincon-Mora, engineer, scholar, author, artist and inventor. Call Ed Armijo at 926-6301 or email edward.armijo@robins.af.mil for details.

► Oct. 14 -- Orgullo Hispano Luncheon at the Officers' Club, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained at www.robins.af.mil/heritage. Keynote speaker will be Col. Pedro Vasquez. For details and ticket price, contact Andy Diaz at 926-1785 or 1786, or Ruben Dominguez at 926-1217 or ruben.dominguez@robins.af.mil.

► Oct. 15 -- Banquet at the Enlisted Club, 6 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. For more information and ticket price, call Miriam Rodriguez or Gopi Weldon at 926-7249.

For more information, visit the Hispanic Heritage Homepage: www.robins.af.mil/heritage.



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SUBMISSION
GUIDELINES

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 78th Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to vance.janes@robins.af.mil and courtesy copied to amanda.smith@robins.af.mil. Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call the editor at (478) 222-0804.

DELIVERY

The Robins Rev-Up is published 50 times a year on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter part of the week and the last two Fridays of the year. To report delivery issues, call Geoff Janes at (478) 222-0804.

ADVERTISING

For advertising information, call The Telegraph advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, call The Telegraph at (478) 744-4234.

ONLINE

To read articles online, visit www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/index.html.

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To be or not to be accountable

When you arrive at work each day, what is it that drives you to begin the day's tasks as opposed to surfing the Internet? What is it that motivates you to police your work area or perform file maintenance during work delays as opposed to making out your shopping list or socializing with your coworkers?

I would say it is our values that sway these decisions. While so much is preached about our accountability to our organization, it is our personal accountability that affects the thousands of decisions we make each day.

What is accountability? Webster defines it as "an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions." Other words that come to mind are integrity, honesty, virtue, commitment, and empowerment. While the scope of accountability is far reaching (management accountability, employee accountability, corporate accountability), words such as integrity and honesty hit closer to personal accountability. It is clear that all other levels of accountability originate with our personal values or virtue.

Some years ago, Paul Harvey did one of his popular "The Rest of the Story" broadcasts. He told the true story about an older man who was a great admirer of democracy and public education. He had a great dream

to bring those two things together in the creation of a new public college where the students would practice self-governance. There would be no rules or regulations. The goodwill and judgment of the students would run the college. After years of planning, the school was finally opened, and the older man was overjoyed. But as the months went by, the students proved time and time again that they were not the models of goodness and discipline and good judgment that the man had envisioned. They skipped classes. They drank to excess. They wasted hours in frivolous pursuits. They had no sense of accountability.

Then one night 14 students disguised themselves with masks, filled themselves with alcohol, and went on a rampage that ended in a brutal brawl. One student hit a professor with a brick, and another used a cane on his victim. In response, the college's trustees met in a special meeting. The older man, now 82 years old and very frail, was asked to address the student body. In his remarks, he recalled the lofty principles upon which the college had been founded. He said he had expected more – much more – from the students. He even confessed that this was the most painful event in his life. Suddenly, he stopped speaking. Tears welled up in his failing eyes. He was so overcome

with grief that he sat down, unable to go on.

His audience was so touched that at the conclusion of the meeting the 14 offenders stepped forward to admit their guilt. The students accounted for their actions, but they could not undo the damage already done. A strict code of conduct and numerous regulations were instituted at the college. Now, that college went on to become one of the great universities in America, but at that moment the older man felt heartsick. His experiment didn't go the way he had planned. Why? Because he took for granted the one essential ingredient necessary for any democracy's success – the virtue and goodness of the people. Those young students weren't spiritually mature enough to realize that only a good and virtuous people can secure and maintain their freedom. A short time later on the fourth of July, the man died.

Among the items engraved on his tombstone are these simple words: "Thomas Jefferson -- Author of the Declaration of American Independence ... and Father of the University of Virginia."

Now, as Paul Harvey would put it, "you know the rest of the story."

Bill Meeks, chief,
Resources Management Division,
Engineering Directorate

Is bottled water better than tap?

Bottled water is touted on television and advertised in grocery stores. Bottled water can be sparkling, lemon-flavored, and even raspberry-flavored. It comes from exotic sources such as artesian wells and mountain springs. But no one advertises tap water. So, bottled water must be better than the Base tap water, right?

Actually, many of the larger manufacturers sell bottled water that comes from the tap water of municipalities. However, while one gallon of tap water costs the

average American citizen less than one penny, a 12-ounce container of bottled water can cost upwards of \$1.69, or about \$18 per gallon.

Is bottled water safer? The manufacturer is required to test bottled water once a year but the Food and Drug Administration regulates bottled water only if it crosses a state line.

Consequently, more than 50 percent of all bottled water is exempt from those regulations because it is bottled and sold in a single state.

By contrast, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has set national safety standards for more than 80 contaminants that may occur in drinking water. State-certified laboratories analyze this tap water to ensure its quality.

But what about Robins' water system? The Georgia Environmental Protection Division directs all Community Water Systems to provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to their cus-

tomers. The CCR was provided to base residents in the June 17 edition of The Robins Rev-Up, and illustrates that Robins' water meets or exceeds USEPA standards. Hard copies of the CCR can be obtained by contacting Public Affairs at 926-2137. Electronic copies are located at <http://www.robins.af.mil/78ME DGP/newsletters/CCR2004d4.pdf>.

78th Civil Engineer
Group/CEVQ

'Dear Roz'

Q: Will the implementation of the National Security Personnel System affect the current Air Force procedures established for hiring and staffing the work force?

A: Yes — The proposed laws contained in NSPS give the Department of Defense the opportunity to define, within the new human resource system, features that will streamline hiring, attract high-quality applicants, and enhance the DoD's ability to meet critical mission requirements, while preserving principles of merit and veteran's preference.

In addition, the NSPS contains the authority to simplify job changes and reassignments, and help establish appropriate pay setting. Some of the key features of the proposed laws include:

- DoD, with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), may establish new hiring authorities tailored to the Department's need;
- Government-wide hiring authori-

- ties and tools are to be retained;
- Direct-hire authority for severe shortage or critical needs is vested in the Office of the Secretary of Defense;
- Preserves Veteran's preference;
- DoD will be able to improve and streamline examining procedures to speed up the hiring process.

One of the driving forces for the proposed NSPS is the need to transform today's human resource system based on events of Sept. 11, 2001. Senior leaders determined that our military were not readily accessible based on their current assignments during the Sept. 11 tragedy. Possessing the ability to utilize unclassified skills of civilian employees in a timelier manner to fill in behind the departing military would be invaluable.

Today's civil service system is very constraining and does not allow for utilization of unclassified skills possessed by our civilian workforce. NSPS authorities provide the DoD

with an expanded set of tools for assigning and reassigning employees in response to mission changes and priorities. The new NSPS will give managers at all levels a greater ability to acquire, advance and shape their workforce in response to their organizational needs and ultimately the DoD's missions and goals.

If your organization has not received the NSPS Overview, please contact the WRALC/CCN office at 926-4023 to schedule a date and time for the presentation. Also, please continue to check the latest information on NSPS by clicking on the NSPS Logo located on the Robins Homepage.

Rosalind 'Roz' Overton, NSPS transition assistant, will address employees' NSPS concerns in the Robins Rev-Up each week. For more information, call Ms. Overton at 926-4023 or visit the NSPS link at www.robins.af.mil.



Rosalind 'Roz' Overton is a National Security Personnel System transition assistant.



Col. Greg Patterson
78th Air Base Wing
commander

Commander's
Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible: Security Forces 327-3445; Services Division 926-5491; EEO Office 926-2131; MEO 926-6608; Employee Relations 926-5802; Military Pay 926-3777; IDEA 926-2536; Base hospital 327-7850; Civil engineering 926-5657; Public Affairs 926-2137; Safety Office 926-6271; Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline 926-2393; Housing Office 926-3776. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Calling Base Finance

I am inquiring why it is acceptable to call every phone number in base finance directorate and not be able to talk to a human being. Whenever I've called any phone number, but especially 6-3777 and 6-4022, I get the automated service which directs you to the extension/customer service element you need in finance. Once connected to the extension it rings a few times and goes to a mail box which is full, or if you are able to leave a message, no one returns your call. I don't mind taking a ride to Building 301 to ask a question but with the parking situation in that area and the price for a gallon of gas it's just more cost effective and environmentally friendlier to pick up the phone and ask a simple question.

Colonel Patterson's Reply

You are right – that's not acceptable. You should be able to call the finance office and talk to a customer service representative during our customer service hours.

At times, the customer service counter is busy and we do rely on our voice mail system to capture customer inquiries. Your complaint (and several others) highlighted an issue we had with our voicemail boxes.

That issue has been resolved. I called this morning on four different occasions and it works. Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We're confident the fix will result in timely voice mail responses.

You may also reach a finance customer service representative by sending an email to 78cpts.fmc.milpay. Again, thank you for your comments and we sincerely hope the measures taken will improve the quality of service to all of our finance customers.



U.S. Air Force photos

Tech Sgt. Michael Ehrman (center) installs lighting in a tent.

SUPPORT

Continued from 1A

engineers from Robins and three other Air Force bases. The team also provided tents for the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., in another area on the airport grounds. That tent city supports more than 2,000 Army troops.

“The conditions are relatively comfortable,” Captain Fletcher said. “This is nothing new for us since we normally deploy and train under contingency environments. Our tents are air conditioned, the dining facility is up, and we are able to shower daily, so life is wonderful.”

With the tent cities completed, the engineers began sending two teams of about 30 people per team to New Orleans to help with mobility operations in areas where the water has receded. The work is beginning to bear fruit, he said.



New Orleans International Airport becomes a tent city as members of the 82nd Airborne Division move in.

Moving in the Right Direction

“In the two-week span we have been here, there has been a drastic improvement in the area,” he said. “The recovery is definitely moving in the right direction.

“CE’s presence is definitely felt and is making an enormous impact,” he added. “We maintain facilities for more than 3,000 people, and I know we are making a difference at both

New Orleans International Airport and in the City of New Orleans.”

“The men and women of the CEG, both our military and our Air Force civilians, were eager to contribute to the recovery effort,” said Col. Lemoyne F. Blackshear, 78th Civil Engineer Group commander. “We are proud of our deployed team and grateful for the opportunity to help our fellow citizens when they needed us.”

X-ray vision

Robins Airmen support special mission to save countless lives in theater

By Holly L. Birchfield
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

First Lt. Rob Lough and Senior Airman Andrew Maddox were used to playing supporting roles in the War on Terrorism, but a special mission in 2004 put them in the lead role of saving troops’ lives.

Lieutenant Lough, 99th Air Refueling Squadron executive officer and aviation navigator, and Senior Airman Andrew Maddox, 116th Air Control Wing Operations Support Squadron Intelligence imagery analyst, were among about 30 servicemembers who volunteered for a mission involving the C-12 Horned Owl, a task that would uncover dangers that threaten ground troops’ safety.

Navigators, analysts and contractors from all four Armed Forces branches spent two weeks training in Bridge Water, Va., in March 2004 for the special mission aircraft used to uncover improvised explosive devices and weapons caches in theater.

“This aircraft was in the secretary of the Air Force’s mind, until it landed last year and was made part of an experimental program in the Middle East during combat,” Lieutenant Lough said.

The mission, which began

in June 2004 with a nine-person team of military and contractors from Andrews Air Force Base, Wash., followed by a larger team including the two Robins’ Airmen in later months, gave the Air Force a chance to see if the special operations aircraft could spot hidden dangers – and indeed it did.

“It was a 60-day effort to prove whether the aircraft could find these types of IEDs and weapons caches in Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Kent Shin, assistant for security and policy programs. “The mission was extended and 388 days later, it came back.”

Lieutenant Lough, who joined the Air Force in July 2002, said the mission gave him a chance to really make a difference.

“I know that because of the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Flight and because of the people at the 19th Air Refueling Group who covered for me while I was gone, there are people walking around today because we found the munitions before people could be hurt by them,” the Tennessee native said.

During the 90-day deployment, Lieutenant Lough spent many hours capturing images of anything that appeared suspicious. Airman Maddox, who often spent 16 hour dayx analyzing the

images captured by Lieutenant Lough, said the job’s long hours were well worth it.

“I would download and analyze all the information that came from the cameras,” he said. “I would identify anything that might be suspicious and relay it to the appropriate people.”

The father of two, who joined the service after 9/11, said the mission gave him the opportunity to do exactly what he wanted to do – save lives.

“It was great because I was actually able to do imagery work to save lives,” he said. “I wasn’t going over there to kill anybody or anything like that. I knew that what I was doing would save some of these Army, Air Force and Marine personnel that are walking and driving around out there.”

Airman Maddox said the experience was out of this world.

“It makes you feel like Superman,” he said. “They don’t know I’m here, but guess what? I can see them.”

According to Colonel Shin, imagery analysts spotted 21 IEDs and 24 weapons caches, containing thousands of shells, rocket propelled grenades and ammunition, found underground through hours of special camera analysis.

READ THE ROBINS REV-UP ONLINE

www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/

► **IN BRIEF**

HOUSING OFFICE CLOSED

The Housing Office will be closed today for Sports Day. Persons with housing maintenance issues should call ACC Maintenance at 923-8033 or the Service Call Desk at 926-5657. In case of emergency, call 955-7147.

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
EVENTS PLANNED**

Robins Air Force Base Fire Department, in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association, will observe National Fire Prevention Week to raise awareness of the dangers of fire and the need to observe fire safety.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each October, and includes Oct. 9 in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This year's dates are Oct. 9-15. Fire prevention events at Robins begin Oct. 3.

This year's theme is "Use Candles With Care. When You Go Out, Blow Out." Even though Fire Prevention Week is observed only once a year, fire prevention issues are important year-round. This year's goal is to spread the message that fire safety does save lives.

With this year's campaign, the base fire department will focus on educating the base populace, pre-school, and school age children about fire safety and the importance of candle safety.

The public is encouraged to practice home fire evacuation escape plans at least twice each year, make sure that all family members know the escape plan, and test smoke detectors at least once each month.

This year's schedule of events at Robins includes:

- Oct. 3 – Fire Prevention poster contest at Robins Elementary School, 8:50 a.m.
- Oct. 4 – Sparky visits the Child Development Center West, Building 946, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 5 – Fire Drill at Robins Elementary, Building 988, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 6 – Sparky visits Child Development Center East, Building 943, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 7 – Hanging of Fire Prevention banners at Fifth, Main and First street gates and Russell Parkway gate, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 7 – Sparky visits Robins pre-kindergarten students, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Oct. 11-14 – Fire Safety trailer at Robins Elementary, 8:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Oct. 11-14 – Fire Prevention material handouts at Base Exchange, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The fire extinguisher maintenance shop will be closed Oct. 11 and 13. For more information, contact the Base Fire Prevention Section at 926-2145.

BAND HOLDS FREE CONCERT

The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve and the Museum of Aviation will present the last concert of the free concert series Sept. 27, 7 p.m., at the museum amphitheatre. Reserve Generation will play contemporary adult hits, rhythm and blues, jazz, country, hits from the '60s, and selections from Billboard Magazine's Hot 100 including rock, rap and hip-hop. Concert goers are encouraged to come early and bring a picnic, lawn chairs and blankets. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Century of Flight Hangar.

EXCUSED ABSENCE VOTING

The city of Warner Robins will hold a general election Nov. 8, and a runoff election, if necessary, Nov. 29. As a reminder, the voting leave policy for employees who request time off to vote in the Warner Robins city elections or for elections occurring in the surrounding cities/counties is as follows:

Employees can be excused, workload permitting, without charge to leave for the amount of time necessary to permit them to report to work two hours after the polls open or leave work two hours before the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time off.

Polls are generally open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day. Employees who report to work at 9 a.m. or later, or end their tour of duty at 5 p.m. or before will not normally receive voting leave.

Employees voting in Houston, Bibb or Peach counties who are

the servicing Employee Relations Specialist at 6-0677 or 6-5802.

**MILITARY BALL RESERVATIONS
ACCEPTED THROUGH OCT. 7**

Reservations will be taken through Oct. 7 for the 21st Middle Georgia Military Ball to take place Oct. 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar. Proceeds from the ball benefit the museum.

Entertainment will be provided by Full Spectrum, the jazz ensemble of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve; the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team; and the

Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

The theme for this year's ball will be the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force's First Flight of the C-130. Anyone interested in attending should call their organizational monitors. The following are taking reservations:

- WR-ALC Command Section & Staff Offices – Shelley Ward, 222-0769
- WR-ALC/EN – Capt. David Drummond, 926-0540
- WR-ALC/MU – Linda DeRosa, 926-6870
- WR-ALC/PK – Stephanie Gissemann, 926-5236

- WR-ALC/QL – Betina Harris, 926-8739
- HQ AFRC – Master Sgt. Sonia McPhee, 327-1114
- 5 CCG – 2nd Lt. Russell Hammer or 2nd Lt. Mark Duncan, 327-8703
- 19 ARG – Master Sgt. Rodney McPhail, 926-4589
- 78 ABW – Diane Gross, 926-6203, or Kathy Fairfield, 926-4905
- 99 ARS – Capt. Daniel Whatley, 327-6784
- 116 ACW – 1st Lt. Vanessa Siffirin, 327-4470
- 330 ASW – Jeane Paris, 926-

- 6459
- 402 MXW – Kelley (Latham) Prestridge, 222-3533
- 413 FTG – Senior Master Sgt. O'Brian Webster, 222-2877
- 542 CSW – 2nd Lt. Nicole Rogers, 926-9765, or 2nd Lt. Jeff Seguin, 926-7280
- 622 MSS – Tech Sgt. Nancy Brown, 926-5801
- 653 CLSS – Master Sgt. Olin Wilson, 926-5046
- For more information, contact Wanda Hattaway at 222-3538 or wanda.hattaway@robins.af.mil or Kelley Prestridge at 222-3533 or kelly.prestridge@robins.af.mil.

► IN BRIEF

VETERANS RECRUITED AS TEACHERS

Bill Kirkland, representative for the Troops to Teachers program, will be at the Robins Education Center Sept. 28 from 10 to 11 a.m. to answer questions about Troops to Teachers. The briefing will be held in Building 905, Room 137. No reservations are necessary.

Troops to Teachers is a cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Defense that provides referral and placement assistance to men and women who have served the nation as members of the Armed Forces and who are seeking a second career as teachers in public schools. More information about this program is available at www.proudtoserveagain.com.

Mr. Kirkland will also discuss the Spouses to Teachers program. Information on this program is available at www.spousestoteachers.com.

For more information, contact Fran Sheridan at the Base Education Office, 327-7325, or Mr. Kirkland at bill.kirkland@gapsc.com.

TURNING STRIPES INTO GOLD SEMINAR HELD

Capt. Donnell Myrick, assistant professor of Aerospace Studies, Air Force ROTC, at the University of Georgia, will host a commissioning seminar titled “Turning Stripes into Gold” at the Robins Enlisted Club today from 10 to 11 a.m. in the East Wing.

Captain Myrick will discuss various opportunities available to enlisted members in programs such as Airman Education and Commissioning Program (AECP), Scholarships for Outstanding Airman to ROTC (SOAR), and Professional Officer Course-Early Release Program (POC-ERP).

No reservations are necessary, and interested enlisted Airmen are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the Base Education Office at 327-7304.

MILEAGE RATE CHANGES

Effective Sept. 1, the temporary duty privately owned vehicle mileage rate was changed to 48.5 cents. The mileage rates for motorcycles and airplanes have not changed.

The Internal Revenue Service publicized this change Sept. 12 and the automated travel pay system was subsequently updated. Since this change is retroactive, the Finance Office is re-computing all affected travel vouchers between Sept. 1-13. For more information, call 6-4021.

116TH ACW TELEPHONE NUMBERS CHANGE

The 116th Air Control Wing's Telephone System has been upgraded, effective today. As a result of this upgrade, all Wing telephone numbers with a 327

prefix will change to the following schema:

Commercial: (478) 201-1XXX, 2XXX, 3XXX, 4XXX, 5XXX.

DSN: (241) 241-1XXX, 2XXX, 3XXX, 4XXX, 5XXX.

The Wing will publish a telephone number directory prior to cutover to assist in locating new telephone numbers.

Also, in order to comply with Air Force Instruction the Dialing Plan will change in the following ways:

►7 digit dialing (instead of 5)

►To access DSN dial 94

(instead of 88)

►To access Commercial dial

99 (instead of 9)

►To access Long Distance

dial 98 (instead of 9)

Tech Sgt. Martin Chrisman is the point of contact, and can be reached at 7-6038, or 201-4322 post cutover.

Paralegals help Air Force attorneys serve justice

By **HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD**
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

While going before a judge may make some people nervous, it's just another day at work for Staff Sgt. Tracy Huffman.

Sergeant Huffman, one of six military justice paralegals in the Base Legal Office here, works alongside four military attorneys, processing Article 15 (non-judicial) and court martial (judicial) actions.

The Georgia native, who fell in love with the legal career field during an internship at age 16, said while the job of rounding up witnesses, tracking down paperwork and handling whatever else attorneys need for cases is usually confined to an eight-hour workday, the role sometimes calls for longer hours.

"If you're a military paralegal, it's very sporadic," she said. "You have a 'to do' list when you come in and lots of meetings on some days."

Sergeant Huffman underwent a six-week training course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., to prepare for the military paralegal career.

The 34-year-old mother of three is one of a few paralegals in the office who works with first sergeants and commanders to get non-judicial punishment processed.

"When someone commits an offense, the commander decides what punishment he wants," she said. "If it's an Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, then that's the forum the commander chooses to punish that person. We work with the attorneys in drafting all of the charges and the commander serves the punishment."

Whether compiling information for an Article 15 or gathering witnesses and evidence for a court martial, Sergeant Huffman



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Pictured left to right are Staff Sgt. Tracy Huffman, Staff Sgt. Tawanda Cushenberry, Staff Sgt. Shakinna Underwood, and Staff Sgt. Cynthia Salge.

said the job of a paralegal is involved.

"It's very tasking," she said. "For each assignment, whether it's an Article 15 or a court martial, there is a checklist we go by, which includes timelines, metrics to be met, etc. We have guidelines set by the Air Force Staff Judge Advocate General. It's very tasking, very tedious and a lot of paperwork."

And while some may think going through the motions of preparing for the legal cases and setting up wills and powers of attorney is hum-drum, Staff Sgt. Cynthia Salge, a 25-year-old paralegal who has worked with the Base Legal Office for a year, said the process of working the cases is very different.

"None of the cases are the same," she said. "They each have some kind of twist. So, it keeps things interesting."

Staff Sgt. Tawanda Cushenberry, also a military justice paralegal with the Base Legal Office, said when the pres-

sure is high, she knows she can rely on her fellow paralegals for help.

"Being in justice, you have to work as a team," she said. "When you have a court martial going on, that takes precedence over everything."

"You may be assigned to Article 15s or court martials, or you may be assigned to one case, but we all work together to get things done."

While the job's stress can be overwhelming at times, Sergeant Huffman said playing such an important role in the military justice system is rewarding.

"The best part of it is the job itself," she said. "Having your hands in everything and being able to research and learn about different parts of the military justice system is interesting. We get to know about everything that happens."

Sergeant Huffman said the job is a far cry from her previous career as an Air Force survival instructor.

"With my old job, we had a certain way of doing things," she said. "As a paralegal in military justice, you can do it this way for this case and it may be totally different for another case. You have to learn how to approach it."

Even though tension can run high in this job, Sergeant Cushenberry said knowing she has such a great impact on others' lives helps her stay focused.

"With my job, one mistake, especially in justice, can cost someone a whole lot," she said. "Someone's career is on the line. We deal with courts martial and Article 15s, which can follow someone in their career."

But the 30-year-old mother of two said she feels everyone's job is equally important to the Air Force mission.

"We're all here to protect and to serve," she said. "Whether you're on the flight line or you're here in the legal office, or if you're working in the hospital, I don't think anyone's job is any more important than the others."